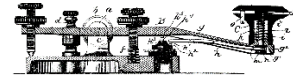




Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club
W5SC



2025, No. 9

September 2025



September 11, 2001, Editor's Comments
Jim Neff, WJ4M

In somewhat recent history, such as during my lifetime, there have been notable events that changed the way we citizens of the United States live and act. Several come to mind, like:

--The December 7, 1941, surprise attack on US Naval forces at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The dead numbered 2,403.

The next meeting, September 11, 2025, will be at 7 PM at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216, (210) 251-2602.

--The assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963.

--September 11, 2001. A group of Islamic terrorists commandeered four airliners and flew two of them into the World Trade Center twin towers in New York City, destroying them. A third airliner crashed into the Pentagon. A fourth some think was meant for the White House, crashed into rural, western Pennsylvania. The attacks killed 2996 people that day

People who were alive years after those events remember where they were and what they were doing when those events occurred.

The club meeting this September happens to be on September 11, the 24th anniversary of what came to be called 9-11. In its November 2001 issue of QST, the ARRL published stories of hams helping through that tragic emergency. The twin towers were not only an international business center, but also hubs of communication services for New York City. As you can imagine, as in the recent Kerrville floods, hams stepped up to provide communications when normal systems failed. <https://tinyurl.com/ARRL-QST-9-11>

Our newer members may be too young to remember 9-11 and the way our world changed afterward.

One ham who helped then was ten-year-old Beverly Holtz, KC2IKT, who volunteered at a Red Cross shelter spending 8 hours as the only radio operator. She'd received her ham ticket on September 14 and wanted to help. (Continued on page 6)



PRESIDENT’S RADIOGRAM

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
9 R		N5IUT		San Antonio, TX			September 2025
TO							

Hello South Texas,

Twenty-four years ago, I was a newly married man. I showed up at work bright and early to start checking on systems. While sitting at my desk that Tuesday the phone rang. It was a friend of mine. He told me some news that left me confused. The news radio station he was listening to reported that a plane had hit the World Trade Center in New York City!

I said, “That is odd. Was it foggy? Why would a plane be that low over the city?”. I brought up the website called “The Internet Traffic Report” and it showed that a major router went offline in New York City. I told him, “If it is in New York City, it will be on TV.”. At this point I have no idea what is happening, but I wanted to see it.

Take the elevator upstairs. In the second-floor break room there is a television used to watch training video tapes but there is no antenna for the TV.

Time to use my amateur radio skills and make a tv antenna. Head back downstairs to the basement storage area and cut a seven-foot-long section of Ethernet cable from the spool. Next, remove a single pair of wires from the cable and start untwisting most of the pair of wires. Go back upstairs.

I pushed the TV cart over to the middle of a large window that faces South. From this building the TV station transmitters would be to the Southeast. Next, the insulation from one wire was stripped about 3 inches and a half inch from the other. The longer exposed wire was wrapped around the outside of the television’s F-Connector and the short wire pushed into the center of the connector. The other ends of the wires were tied to the vertical blinds in the shape of a V.

Now the TV could receive two stations crystal clear but only one was needed. The first tower was damaged and on fire under a clear blue sky. Moments later, the people standing in the break room saw the second tower struck by United Airlines Flight 175.

After the plane hit the Pentagon, I called my wife to tell her not to open her shop in Gruene. We needed to find her family who live a few miles from the Pentagon. Later that night we found out it took her elderly father eight hours to drive from American University in Washington DC back to Alexandria because they closed all the bridges over the river. Her family was ok but many others were not.

On the Friday after 9/11, the person that manages the concessions for the office break room thanked me for setting up the TV. She said it gave people a place to gather, get news, and discuss the events.

Have you used your amateur radio training to help others? I would love to hear your stories and have them published in the Bexar Wire. Please get with me and Jimmie Neff to tell a story or two.

Bexar Wire

Published monthly by:



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 Jimmie Neff, WJ4M
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The due date for articles is the **Monday** before the first **Thursday** of the month

San Antonio Radio Club

Meeting Minutes

7:00 PM August 11, 2025

Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd., San Antonio, TX 78216

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM//Pledge of Allegiance//Introductions

Presentations: – The Capacitor Plague, 1999-2009. Presented history of a period when capacitors were failing in mass quantities, following an episode of industrial espionage that led to an improper mixture used to create them. This was followed by a presentation on manufacturing problems at Intel, related to dust contaminating the process.

Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting

One change to the Minutes was noted: a meeting ending time was missing from the original record, but updated to show the correct ending time. There being no additions or changes, the minutes were passed without objection by unanimous consent.

Officer Reports:

President – Paul Guido, N5IUT

- Obtained an IFR 1600S service monitor from an AT&T Pioneers ham shack downtown. Paul offered its use to help with checking repeaters, duplexers, and radios for SARC members.
- Received a QSL card from a Field Day contact. Logs checked and contact verified.
- Working to get rid of some club equipment that has been for sale, but isn't moving. Will be discounted for sale to create room for newer items.

Vice President – Position Vacant – If interested in filling this position, contact Paul Guido.

Secretary – Jack Bannin, N5JLB – The minutes from club meetings can be found at the w5sc.org website, in the Newsletters section.

Treasurer – Jon April, KI5CSK – Provided summary of the funds available to the club. Notified membership that the club is comparing other banks to see if there is a more advantageous plan available.

Chairman of the Board Report – Harold Fleischer, AE5AS – Board met August 7 via Zoom to review budget. The club budget was the main topic for discussion. Radio Fiesta produced a profit. We will be paying to replace the wood planks for the club’s trailer. Bob Rodriguez Scholarship is selling raffle tickets to fund the scholarships. Prizes have already been purchased. Radio Fiesta discussed the venue, which will remain the same in 2026 (last weekend of May). The club’s tent will be sold. Old stored QST magazines will be removed. Board decided to explore a change in the bank the club uses. The club will retain the FTX-101 radio and will purchase a Buddy Pole antenna for club use.

Education and Training – Marvin “Marlo” Brown (KJ5BQV) & Travis Buhler (KI5TXG): Per Paul Guido: Updated Technician license question pool will be released in early 2026. The club would like to create a study guide when the new questions are released, and will be soliciting assistance when the time comes.

Emergency Communications – Ned Lee KG5US – Absent. However, there is still some activity going on in the Kerrville, TX, and hams have been assisting with radio communications because of inter-agency radio interoperability problems.

Activities for July

- 1. Web Site-
 - a. Posted newsletters
- 2. Groups.io
 - a. Updated membership list
 - b. Updated calendar
- 3. Mail chimp- Meeting notice, Zoom Notice
- 4. Twitter
- 5. Facebook -Meeting notice

Membership	As of 8/8/2025		
Paid 129	New Members for 2025		
Free / Mil 6	First	Last	Call
Family Members 21	Pete	Cantu	
Free / RF 16	David	Callow	
Free / VE 23	Terry	Callow	
ARRL Members 93			

Total Membership	193		

Notes: Tailgate Sept 27 at Encino Library – 0800-1300

POTA: Wednesday mornings at 10 AM at Mission San Jose. Sunday mornings at Government Canyon State Natural Area. Information commonly posted in the Groups.IO forum.

Fox Hunt – Steve Ortiz – KJ5HIH – No report.

Newsletter Editor – Jimmie Neff – Newsletter distributed August 12, 2025. Contact Jimmy if you want to contribute an article for publication. Deadline is the Monday before the monthly meeting.

Field Day – Jon April, KI5CSK: No report.

Finance and Review – Previously completed.

JOTA – Position vacant. Will occur in October. If interested, watch the Groups.IO chat.

Centennial Committee – Tom O’Brien AB5XZ – Memorabilia available.

Radio Fiesta – Aubrey Mason – Tables and admission are available for sale at the website, and the event is included in ARRL’s events calendar. In 2027, San Antonio will host the South Texas Section Convention.

VE Team – Benny Martinez, NU5P: Those testing will need to obtain their FRN in advance. Forms available to obtain it are at AARL website in the Testing section.

Testing opportunities:

SARC tests are at the Leon Valley library 12:00
6425 Evers Rd
Leon Valley, TX 78238

Aug 23 – 12:00
Oct 25 – 12:00 – Leon Valley Fire Station
Dec 20 – 12:00

Silent Key Committee – Rodney Brown, AA5RB – Absent, but equipment available for purchase. Contact Rodney for more information.

Executive – Seeking Vice President to fill the vacant position.

Election Committee – Paul Guido, N5IUT – Looking for a Vice President. Elections this year, so board members will be soliciting nominations and volunteers.

8am-1pm



Download Flyer

SARC 's 7th Tailgate event for those interested in selling or buying some used ham radio gear and equipment opportunity for sellers to bring their Ham gear, open their trunks and let your stuff find a new home! Buyers the parking lot looking for good deals from local hams you can trust. There is always a selection of Silent Key equipment, at prices to sell, by our Silent Key Chairman, Rodney, AA5RB.

- No AC power available
- Generators OK –
- Must take away any trash you create

Restrooms open at 10am – plan accordingly

Bill Craft, KD2HIQ
210-570-0335 info@w5sc.org

On September 11, 2001, and in the days and weeks since, Amateur Radio operators have demonstrated their readiness, perhaps as never before. While Amateur Radio Emergency Service and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service training might not have readied them to fully comprehend the terrible events of that day, Amateur Radio operators were among the first to volunteer their stations, their skills and themselves.

"The SET is cancelled; this is the real thing!" said ARRL New York City-Long Island Section Emergency Coordinator Tom Carrubba KA2D, who only weeks earlier had been outlining plans for his section's Simulated Emergency Test in October. The events of September 11 changed all of that, and without the luxury of the sort of advanced warning that might occur in a weather-related disaster. Amateur Radio was up against its greatest challenge ever.

"We found ourselves faced with a disaster that no one in their wildest dreams could have ever imagined," Carrubba said. "And this one was right in our own backyard."

"This is Not a Test!"

Providing emergency communication tops the list of reasons that validate Amateur Radio in the eyes of the FCC. Given the ubiquity of the cellular telephone these days, some have predicted this particular mission would evaporate.

When the terrorists struck in New York City and Washington September 11, however, commercial telecommunications systems-wired and wireless-were severely compromised. New York City broadcasters using the World Trade Center antenna went dark.

As soon as the nature of the threats was recognized, federal, state and local officials declared states of emergency. Along with other federal agencies, the FCC shut down. No one knew what to expect. RACES teams found themselves suddenly and unexpectedly activated, not just in the immediately affected areas of New York City and Washington, DC, but across the US. ARES groups went on alert everywhere.

Montgomery County, Maryland, Deputy RACES Officer John Creel, WB3GXW, said nothing in his experience had prepared him for "the feeling that went through my mind when I picked up the microphone and said the words, 'This is not a test!'"

Americans were just learning of the events unfolding at the World Trade Center when the Pentagon attack occurred and a fourth aircraft crashed in rural western Pennsylvania. In the immediate aftermath of the crisis, telephone lines were jammed, and cell systems overwhelmed. Chaos reigned.

Amateur Radio played a role in helping to restore order. "Never have I felt more strongly about what a great privilege it is to be part of the extraordinary global community of Amateur Radio," declared ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, as amateurs sprang into action to do their part.

New York City-Area Amateurs Respond to "The Real Thing"

Terrorists had crashed two airliners into the World Trade Center. The famed Twin Towers then collapsed, setting off a chain of events that involved all of New York City's rescue services. With air travel suddenly suspended, countless passengers found themselves stranded with nowhere to go.

The first to respond were New York City firefighters, police and other rescue workers. Many of them were lost as the buildings fell. Most are still unaccounted for. As this is written, the total number of people missing stands at more than 6400.

As it turned out, New York City's Office of Emergency Management had been located on the 21st and 22nd floors of the World Trade Center. Many local officials had been evacuated to the mayor's "bunker" nearby. It also became unusable in the hours after the attack.

ARRL Hudson Division Vice Director Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, works for ABC News and was in Manhattan during the World Trade Center attacks. He called the scene there "surreal," with police checkpoints set up along highways and military jets criss-crossing the skies above the city.

Former ARRL Headquarters staff member Warren Stankiewicz, NF1J, was in Manhattan from the West Coast on business when the attacks occurred. "The damage is unbelievable," he reported the evening of the attacks. "Grand Central was a panic, and the trains were packed beyond belief. I talked to one woman who had walked four miles with borrowed shoes to get to the train." But, as Mendelsohn was to later observe, "A city thought of by many as cynical pulls together as few others have in times of crisis."

With a state of emergency in effect, Amateur Radio's resources soon mobilized. Ivan Rodriguez, KC2CHE, of Brooklyn, told ARRL that the New York City ARES net came alive within five minutes of the first plane attack. "It's the first thing I thought about," he said. "We may be needed."

Answering the Call

As lower Manhattan quickly took on the look of a war zone, New York City ARRL District Emergency Coordinator and RACES Radio Officer [Charles Hargrove](#), N2NOV-who served as the ARES/RACES incident commander- put out a call to the ARES and RACES leadership. Hargrove and his staff found themselves thrust into the midst of the activation.

New York City-Long Island Section Manager George Tranos, N2GA, huddled with Carrubba at the SEC's Long Island home as the activation got under way. ARES and RACES concentrated their efforts to provide support for the New York City OEM and for American Red Cross relief and recovery efforts. The logistics were unbelievable.

Hundreds of Amateur Radio operators from the Greater New York City area answered the call for assistance. Some of the first deployed were from Long Island. In the hours after the attack telephones, cell phones, pagers and other wireless devices were rendered unusable. For as much as a 50-mile radius there was difficulty getting a dial tone, and Internet service was spotty.

Hams communicated via the area's main repeaters, most of which were unaffected by the disaster. Nets were established, and the trained cadre of volunteers, experienced and ready, were organized and dispatched under Hargrove's and Carrubba's joint leadership.

The common ARES/RACES emergency net established on Manhattan's WB2ZSE 147.000 MHz repeater promptly became the primary conduit for emergency traffic. "It made things seamless, and everyone knew what was going on," Carrubba explained. "You don't have to monitor several radios."

Amateurs also shadowed some New York City officials, handled medical traffic, stood by at hospitals and prepared to assist the American Red Cross Headquarters.

Other ARES units stood by at local emergency operations centers. The American Red Cross Emergency Communications Service in Queens-one of the many area clubs and organizations that contributed the use of repeaters and spread word that volunteers were needed-activated an emergency net on its WB2QBP repeater. A New York State RACES net was operational on 7.248 and 3.993 MHz handling emergency and government-related traffic.

The Red Cross Role

The Red Cross opened a command center in its Brooklyn headquarters, which became a staging area for the Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicles-or ERVs-as well as for volunteer personnel and supplies. A dozen Red Cross shelters soon were up and running around the clock, with Amateur Radio providing operators, equipment and expertise. In the early hours and days of the response, finding victims trapped in the rubble was foremost on everyone's mind.

Hams were assigned to Red Cross headquarters, the various shelters and other subsidiary Red Cross sites around the area, including the five New York City boroughs-Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn, Staten Island and the Bronx- plus New York's Westchester, Nassau and Suffolk counties and across the Hudson River in New Jersey. ARES-staffed nets provided the needed communications support, coordinating shelter health-and welfare traffic and logistics.

Carrubba said the high call volume continued to tax the telephone system in lower Manhattan. Telephone service was available, but it often took 15 or 20 tries to get a call through, so ham radio was bridging the gap. "American Red Cross communications are overloaded, and traffic from the shelters is coming into the New York City net at a rapid pace," he said on Day Two of the response. "The Amateur Radio ops are doing a great job under very difficult and strange conditions, but this is what they have trained for; they are getting it done well."

SM Tranos made announcements and helped coordinate the efforts of the ARES staff. Key players in addition to Tranos, Carrubba and Hargrove, included Manhattan ARES Emergency Coordinator John Kiernan, KE2UN, and the Red Cross's Jay Ferron, N4GAA.

Other ham radio volunteers were dispatched to staff, establish and maintain communications among the World Trade Center disaster site, Red Cross on Amsterdam Avenue in New York, Red Cross Queens Chapter, the multiple Red Cross shelters in Manhattan and Shea Stadium-home of the New York Mets- where a staging and relief area for the thousands of emergency workers had been set up.

At least in the early going, ham volunteers being transported from the Brooklyn Red Cross facility had to be self-sufficient. Dual-band (VHF/UHF) mobile radios, power supplies, mag-mount antennas, coax, power cables, boots, dust masks and even respirators, latex gloves, bottled water and snacks were among the requirements for those stationed near "Ground Zero," as it came to be called, where conditions were frequently described as hellish and protective equipment and clothing were a necessity. Shift after shift of volunteers trekked to and from assignments burdened with bulging backpacks. "This requires a big commitment," Tranos advised. The shifts were 12-plus hours, and often it required considerable time to get credentials and transport in and out of restricted areas, especially at Ground Zero.

Amateur Radio operators volunteered from as far away as Canada, Maine, Texas and California. Several visiting hams from outside the area rolled up their sleeves, including Robert Gissing, VE3ZLV, who assisted the Red Cross in Brooklyn. Suresh, VU2LOT, an Indian ham who was already in Northern New Jersey offered his services. Professional firefighter Wayne Souza, KA1LH, from Fall River, Massachusetts, had hoped to volunteer with his New York City brethren but was told his unit was not needed. Souza decided instead to get involved in the ham radio effort. "It was one way that I could still help," he said. ARES initially turned away most long-distance offers of help because there were no provisions to house the volunteers, entry into New York City was difficult, and parking next-to-impossible.

Even so, many wouldn't take no for an answer and said "I'm coming," despite the requirements and risks involved. SEC Hargrove said the outpouring of people who wanted to help was tremendous. "It's been hard to keep people away," he said. "That's the kind of disaster it was." The Red Cross's Ferron agreed. "The Amateur Radio community has come out very big and very strong," he observed. Tranos put it more succinctly. "I'm very proud of my section," he said.

Across the River

New Jersey amateurs also mustered their resources as the emergency unfolded. Hospitals had been designated and shelters set up across the Hudson River to handle any overflow from New York City.

ARRL Northern New Jersey SEC Steve Ostrove, K2SO, said that dozens of amateurs from his section helped with emergency communications following the attacks. Amateur Radio operators were stationed at four Red Cross shelters in New Jersey, helping to back up the spotty telephone communication. Among other things, the shelters provided a haven for those unable to return home because of restricted traffic into Manhattan. Northern New Jersey operators also supplemented and relieved the New York City ARES team.

A Red Cross emergency net ran on the NO2EL 145.37 MHz repeater, and an ARES net was activated on the WS2Q repeater, with liaison to New York City's ARES/RACES net on 147.000 MHz. The nets were able to coordinate volunteer efforts and blood donations. Several Red Cross chapters in New Jersey were linked by Amateur Radio.

According to Rich Krajewski, WB2CRD, the Jersey City Amateur Radio Club was called on to assist the Red Cross after their repeater atop the World Trade Center was lost in the building's collapse. Club member Stan Daniels, KB2FY, and John Hunter, KE2ZZ-who drove from South Jersey to help-were the backbone of an effort that set up a 2-meter station that allowed communication with local emergency officials and a Red Cross net. Hams also added 2-meter capability to Red Cross emergency vehicles to help them keep in touch as they delivering cots, meals and supplies to shelters in Hudson County.

About a dozen members of the David Sarnoff Radio Club voluntarily activated N2ARC on the 146.46 MHz repeater September 11 to help the American Red Cross Central New Jersey Chapter in Princeton Junction.

Doing The Iron Man Act

A regular cadre of volunteers-two dozen or more per shift-settled into a routine. Hundreds of prospective volunteers signed up via the World Trade Center Disaster Relief Communications registration Web site, developed at the suggestion of Suffolk County DEC Bill Scheibel, N2NFI, by Joe Tomasone, AB2M. "It allows us to make the best use of the volunteers," Carrubba said. The system worked superbly.

Ham volunteers provided their own protective gear and arranged transportation to and from dispatch locations, often carpooling and sharing resources. Yaesu, ICOM, MFJ and other suppliers came forward with loans of transceivers and accessories.

Amateur Radio volunteers were rotated in and out of areas and duties in an effort to equalize the stress. The mood remained largely positive as the response extended past Day 10, Carrubba reported. Still, volunteers were getting tired, and some needed to return to their normal lives and jobs. Shifts scheduled to run 12 hours typically were much longer. "The first 30 or 40 hours everybody does 'the iron man act,' I call it, because they're running on adrenaline," Carrubba said. After that, he said, everyone realized they need some rest and unwound a little bit. "The people that are going back are fresh."

One early volunteer, ARRL member John Stuart, K1OE, of Rowayton, Connecticut, found himself inspired by the experience. After signing up and reporting, Stuart found himself part of a group of hams from eastern Long Island.

"We each became the 'communications person' for shelters throughout lower Manhattan, reporting needs of the shelter to Red Cross headquarters through a net and also reporting, on hourly intervals, the personnel status of the shelter," he said. All told, Stuart spent about 20 hours in New York. "It was a great experience," he said. "I met a lot of wonderful people, the shelters are providing an important function, and the hams are the communications backbone of the operation."

ARRL President Haynie took an opportunity September 21 to visit with some of the New York-area hams at the heart of the communication effort. "On behalf of the 680,000 ham operators in the US, thank you for doing such a fine job," he said.

ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, accompanied Haynie on his visit. "From the very first day I have been proud of the way ARRL members in the Hudson Division responded in overwhelming numbers," Fallon said. "So many responded that many, unfortunately, were turned away." Ultimately some 500 amateurs would answer the call for volunteers. "It really has been our finest hour! It has made us all very proud to be Amateur Radio operators," Fallon said. John MacInnes, a Red Cross communications officer based in Tucson, Arizona, approached Haynie with high praise for the Amateur Radio community and for ARRL. "We wouldn't be where we are today without the ham radio operators," he said. He told Haynie that he should be very proud of his organization and asked him to relay his message of thanks throughout the amateur community.

The New York City ARES/RACES operation in support of the American Red Cross stood down the week of September 23rd.

(Truncated) Reprinted from the November 2001 QST, copyright 2001 ARRL

A Short Note on Grounding **Harold Fleishcher, AE5AS**

(This was in response to a query from Tim, KF4BZT)

SADRC@groups.io

Dear Tim KF4BZT,

I did the grounding presentation brought to the attention of the SADRC group by Bill Craft, KD2HIQ.

Some key points:

1. Measuring whether you have a good ground takes specialized equipment that most of us don't have.
2. You either have a ground or you don't. There is no such thing as a partial ground. An overkill ground doesn't exist either. You have one or don't have one.
3. Building codes and other sources on grounds realize most people don't have equipment to measure grounds so they have rules to follow such that if you follow the rules you should have a ground.

4. The former rule for a ground for your home electrical system was one 8' vertical ground Rod connected to your incoming power box. There are specific rules on sizes of rods and ground cables and how to connect them. The current building code for a home calls for two vertical 8' grounding rods. There are specifications for the distance between them and how to connect them.

5. A structure should only have one common ground. If the electrical service ground is on the right side of your structure (house) and your radio ground is on the left, a trench should be dug between the two and the grounding rods connected. There are specifications on the trench's depth and the size of the connecting wire and how it should be connected to both grounding rods. If you have a detached structure or tower close to your house, they should also be connected to the house electrical service ground. There are rules on what close are, the trenching, and cable sizes.

6. Radio grounds should provide as direct a path to ground as possible. If not direct, electrical charges, think lightning hits on an antenna, may jump off and find its own path. Hence, if your radio is next to your electrical service ground, you could directly connect to it, but if it is separated by any distance, a separate radio grounding Rod connected by a buried connection to the electrical service ground is required.

7. The last page of the presentation has revenues to include material in the ARRL handbook and a separate grounding book that ARRL published. I did look at other sources. An Army source had a trenching method of ground rods in certain circumstances. There are specifications on how deep, etc.

8. Soil matters. Sand is pretty bad. Rock is nasty because you wind up with a rod in a hole whose soil contact may be poor. Methods to improve include using special soil and water.

Grounds for houses being built are inspection points. Electricians doing those grounds should have the right tools - drills - and experiences to place a ground. If I was going to have grounding done outside my house, I would go get one of them to do the work. Ask open ended questions on what needs to be done, how they would do it, etc. I would be looking for someone whose answers cover the key points.

You didn't say anything in your question about towers. Grounding for towers has a lot of technical details and the system for a tower has to be connected to the common ground if it is close to your house. I think the ARRL Handbook or separate ARRL grounding book has material on towers.

You are right to be concerned about lightning and grounds. There are lightning strike maps for the US. South Texas is very prone to lightning strikes much more than I realized until I looked it up. I think I used a copy of the lightning strike map in my presentation.

73,
Harold
AE5AS







Volunteer Examiners at Work

From Bennie Martinez, NU5P, VE Coordinator





Volunteer Examiners at Work

From Bennie Martinez, NU5P, VE Coordinator



Register at HamTest@w5sc.org
Other info at W5SC.org click "Getting Started" then "Testing."

Register at HamTest@w5sc.org
Other info at W5SC.org click "Getting Started" then "Testing."



Radio Winner August VE
Session Scott Draime



SARC has had a Groups.io. Its name is saradioclub.

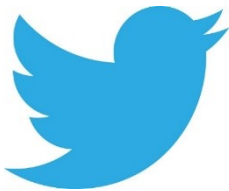
If you haven't signed up for group.io, you should. Groups.io is our primary email messaging method to all club members. It is FREE for all members.

Several members have asked where are the notices, schedules and codes for Zoom meetings?

1. The groups.io calendar has a schedule of Zoom meetings and access codes.
2. The calendar can be accessed directly from the club web site <https://w5sc.org/events-calendar/> NOTE: it is the same groups.io calendar.

The saradioclub Group.io is being used to publicize SARC business meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes. Members of the saradioclub Group.io can and have asked each other technical questions or sought assistance.

The saradioclub Group.io is a closed group. To become a member, go to saradioclub.groups.io. (You may need to have a Groups.io account.) You will then need to select *Apply for membership in this group*. This generates a message. SARC members can expect approval to join the saradioclub Group.io in probably less than 24 hours.



Reminder: there are two active X (Twitter) accounts for the San Antonio Radio Club. They are @SARadioClub and @ARadioFiesta.

The @SARadioClub is being used to publicize SARC meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes.

When work again commences the @ARadioFiesta will be used.

SARC members are encouraged to follow both Twitter accounts

SARC Facebook



There is a San Antonio Radio Club – SARC (@saradioclub) Facebook Page.

The newsletter editor is making posts about SARC meetings and other activities. Any Officer, Committee Chairperson, or member who believes that they have information that should be posted to this page should contact the newsletter editor using the contact information for the newsletter editor on page 2 of this newsletter.

SARC members are encouraged to follow this Facebook Pa

SARC SLACK



There is a San Antonio Radio Club Slack team – w5sc.slack.com.

Slack teams are meant to foster communication between team members. Paul Guido, N5IUT, has established the w5sc.slack.com team for SARC. He has also established some channels. Think of the channels as topical areas.

To join send an email to Paul Guido, N5IUT, at radioteacher@gmail.com. In actuality, any team member already a part of the w5sc.slack.com can invite you, but Paul is known to be on it.

Radio Fiesta 2026

Radio Fiesta 2025 will be at Schertz Civic Center on June 6-7. Get a table and bring stuff to sell or just come in and browse the deals, listen to the presentations and swap tales. Hope to see you there!

Field Day 2025

Field Day 2025 was June 28 – 29 at the City of Shavano Park city hall for the twenty second year. Start planning for FD 2026, where SARC proves they are an eating group with a radio problem.

License Testing Dates for 2025

SARC does all of its licensing testing as a part of ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) organization so all of the Volunteer Examiners in SARC are duly authorized Volunteer Examiners of ARRL's VEC.

Register at HamTest@w5sc.org

Other info at W5SC.org click "Getting Started" then "Testing." If not otherwise noted, testing site is Leon Valley Library, 6425 Evers Rd, Leon Valley, TX 78238

Scheduled for 2025

June 7 Radio Fiesta 1:30

June 29 Field day

Aug 23 12:00

Oct 25 12:00 Leon Valley Fire Station

Dec 20 12:00

Amateur Radio License Classes

For more information, check
the club web page, W5SC.org

SARC has a website:

w5sc.org

Webmaster: Bill Craft KD2HIQ
Billc851@gmail.com

SARC Meeting Dates for 2025

January 9, 2025
February 13, 2025
March 13, 2025
April 10, 2025
May 8, 2025
June 12, 2025
July 10, 2025
August 14, 2025
September 11, 2025
October 9, 2025
November 13, 2025
December – No meeting

Meetings are normally held at Blanco BBQ,
13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216
at 7:00 p. m. Room is available at 6:00 p.
m. for supper

Emergency Communications

If you are interested in emergency communications, contact:
Ned Lee, KG5US RACES Bexar County
210-344-3481/210-391-8258

The ARES EC for Bexar County is Patricia
Coley, KI7IEE,
Phone 206 949-8974
email cosmicfire@gmail.com